

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VICTOR 00320 081751Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01  
OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 /077 W  
-----081754Z 118448 /43

O 081638Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 403  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO NAIROBI 491  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
STATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 320

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PINS, US, FR  
SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT POSITION OF REGIME FOUR DAYS AFTER  
SEIZING POWER.

1. EMBASSY HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT JAMES PILLAY,  
RENE'S SENIOR POLICE COLLABORATOR, HAS MADE BRIEF  
TRIP TO SECOND LARGEST ISLAND OF PRASLIN AND THAT  
REGIME NOT BEING ACTIVELY OPPOSED THERE. (REGULAR TOURIST  
AIR AND SEA SERVICE RESUMED TODAY.) IN ADDITION, THERE ARE  
SOME TENTATIVE SIGNS WHICH SUGGEST REGIME MAY BE FEELING  
SLIGHTLY MORE SECURE. NUMBER OF GUNMEN AT CENTRAL  
POLICE STATION HAS DECLINED MARKEDLY IN PAST 24 HOURS  
AND RENE AND HIS MINISTERS HAVE VENTURED FORTH FROM  
THAT BASTION TO TRAVEL TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND ATTEND  
PRESS CONFERENCE. ALSO, ARMED SPECIAL FORCE POLICE HAVE  
BEEN OBSERVED FOR FIRST TIME AT ROADBLOCKS ALONGSIDE CIVILIAN  
IRREGULARS. VISITORS TO POLICE HQ REPORT THAT PILLAY, WHO IS KNOWN  
STERN DISCIPLINARIAN, HAS IMPOSED CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF  
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PAGE 02 VICTOR 00320 081751Z

CONTROL OVER BOTH POLICE AND CIVILIANS.

2. JUNE 9 IS PUBLIC HOLIDAY (CORPUS CHRISTI) AND REGIME  
HAS ANNOUNCED FURTHER RELAXATION IN CURFEW "BECAUSE  
IT WISHES TO RESPECT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS". NON-CURFEW PERIOD  
EXTENDED BY FOUR HOURS TO 0600-1800 BUT POPULACE WARNED AGAINST  
"LOITERING" BULLETIN ALSO SAID ALL WORKERS SHOULD BE

ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS ON FRIDAY THOUGH SCHOOLS WILL  
REMAIN CLOSED AT LEAST THROUGH JUNE 13. SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
IS STILL STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

3. ON OTHER SIDE, RENE TOLD BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER PUGH IN 1600 TELCOM JUNE 8 THAT HE IS STILL VERY CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE "MERCENARY ATTACK". HE ADDED THAT HIS FORCES WERE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. (COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT RENE COULD HOLD OUT AGAINST WELL-TRAINED FORCE OF EVEN MODEST SIZE AT THIS TIME.) EXHAUSTIVE CHECK OF BAGGAGE OF ALL TRAVELLERS CONTINUED TODAY AT AIRPORT.

4. COMMENT: IRRESPECTIVE OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED SECURITY SITUATION, REGIME WOULD PROBABLY FEEL IT DESIRABLE TO GRADUALLY RELAX RESTRICTIONS IN ORDER CONVEY IMPRESSION OF GROWING CONTROL AND AVOID, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, BACKLASH OF AN INDEPENDENTLY-MINDED PEOPLE WHO RESENT BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO. KEY FACTOR ABOUT WHICH NOTHING KNOWN LOCALLY IS WHAT ACTIVITIES MANCHAM AND HIS FIVE SDP MINISTERS MAY BE ENGAGED IN IN EUROPE TO UNDERMINE RENE'S POSITION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT POSITION OF REGIME FOUR DAYS AFTER SEIZING POWER.  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PINS, US, FR  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009